

Site Inspection Report

The proposed Aniyur Mini hydel project with an unit capacity of 24 MW power generation is located in the village limits of Neriya of Belthangady Taluk in South Canara District. The proposed area falls in the jurisdiction of Belthangady Range of Mangaluru Forest Division. On 30-11-2014, I have visited the spot and inspected the proposed sites of weir construction, pipeline route, power house point, road formation area and the area identified for compensatory afforestation. During my inspection it was noted that the proposed site is situated in the Western ghat region near Charmady ghat road. As per the records, the areal distance from the boundary of Kuduremukha national park whose eco – sensitive zone is yet to be notified is about 7.6 km. However, the proposed project site is a part of private property called Banjara estate. The area of the private estate is about 3100 acres in which rubber, cardamom and cocoa is being cultivated in about 300, 300 and 700 acres respectively. The remaining area of the estate is under forest. The forest of the estate is not notified as private forest but as per the dictionary definition it comes under the category of deemed forest .

The project is proposed across a stream called Aniyur hole which comes out from Balur state forest and runs through the Banjara estate . The project proposal consists of construction of a weir of 5 m height from the stream bed at a point which is about 110 m from the boundary of Balur state forest. from there water is diverted in a steel pipeline of 2.8 m dia and 2.3 km length along the stream through the

deemed forest area to reach the power house the site identified for power house construction is a flat area and devoid of vegetation. From the site of proposed power house , at about 100 meter towards and down stream side , lies the weir structure of Prasanna power project of 6MW capacity which is already working.

At the time of inspection, it was observed that the forest area proposed for diversion is a private forest which falls under deemed forest category and the area proposed for diversion (1.5383 ha) to construct a weir road and pipelining is unavoidable and the barest minimum required for the project. The trees proposed for felling belong to evergreen species and no rare or endangered species are marked for felling . As per the applicant, out of 267 trees that are marked for felling they will avoid felling as many trees as possible. Further, I was told that, out of the total length of the pipe line , about 40 % of the pipeline will go under ground and the pipeline which goes above ground will be painted with green colour so that it merges with the surrounding colour.

Regarding the area proposed for compensatory afforestation , it is a private plantation land with a canopy density of about 0.5 to 0.6. Since the compensatory afforestation area identified is already having vegetation, gap plantations can be taken up in the area with proper protection. During my visit no violation of forest(Conservation)Act, 1980 has been noticed. The area does not contain any protected archeological / heritage site and it is not a marked area for defence

establishment. However ,from the records and enquiry it was learnt the land issue of the estate is in court.

Since the proposed site is a private estate and the proposed forest to be diverted is privately owned deemed forest and the area proposed for diversion and trees proposed for felling are the barest minimum required , in my openion, subject to other clearences and with a condition of transporting all the trees to government timber depot, The project may be considered for clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980.



Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Mangaluru Division, Mangaluru